



PRESS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release

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FORMER ESTERO POSTMASTER INDICTED FOR EMBEZZLEMENT

Fort Myers, Florida - United States Attorney Paul I. Perez announced today the unsealing of an indictment of Ida Lamb Rasnake, age 52, of Lehigh Acres, Florida, charging her with embezzlement. Rasnake is the former Postmaster of the U.S. Post Office located at 8111 Broadway Avenue East, Estero, Florida. Rasnake was arrested earlier today and made her Initial Appearance in Federal court today before the Honorable Magistrate Judge Sheri Polster Chappell. The Court released Rasnake on a \$25,000 appearance bond.

The Indictment alleges that from January 30, 2001, through January 5, 2004, as Postmaster of the Estero, Florida, Post Office, Rasnake embezzled and converted to her own use approximately \$254,940.00 in U.S. currency belonging to the U.S. Postal Service. The Indictment further alleges that during the same time period, Rasnake allegedly made false and fictitious entries on U.S. Postal records with the intent to deceive and mislead. The maximum penalties for each of the charged offenses is 10 years' imprisonment, a fine

of \$250,000 and a term of supervised release three years.

This case was investigated by the United States Postal Inspection Service. The case will be prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jeffrey F. Michelland of the Fort Myers Division of the United States Attorney's Office.

An indictment is merely a formal charge that a defendant has committed a violation of the federal criminal law, and is not evidence of guilt. Every defendant is presumed innocent until the entry of a guilty plea, or until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.